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Title: GOLF CLUB HEAD

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Equivalents:

ABSTRACT:

A golf club head (10) having a socket (14) to receive a club shaft, comprises a main body portion (12) having a recess formed in the forward 10 surface (16) for receiving an interchangeable insert (20) whose forward surface (22) defines the ball- contacting surface of the club head (10). The co-operating lateral end surfaces of the recess and the insert diverge downwardly and rearwardly to form a dovetail-type configuration which allows the insert (20) to be firmly secured to the main body portion (12) by means of a single screw or the like extending through the rear of the main body portion.

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(54) Golf club head

(57) A golf club head (10) having a socket (14) to receive a club shaft, comprises a main body portion (12) having a recess formed in the forward surface (16) for receiving an interchangeable insert (20) whose forward surface (22) defines the ball-contacting surface of the club head (10). The co-operating lateral end surfaces of the recess and the insert diverge downwardly and rearwardly to form a dovetail-type configuration which allows the insert (20) to be firmly secured to the main body portion (12) by means of a single screw or the like extending through the rear of the main body portion.

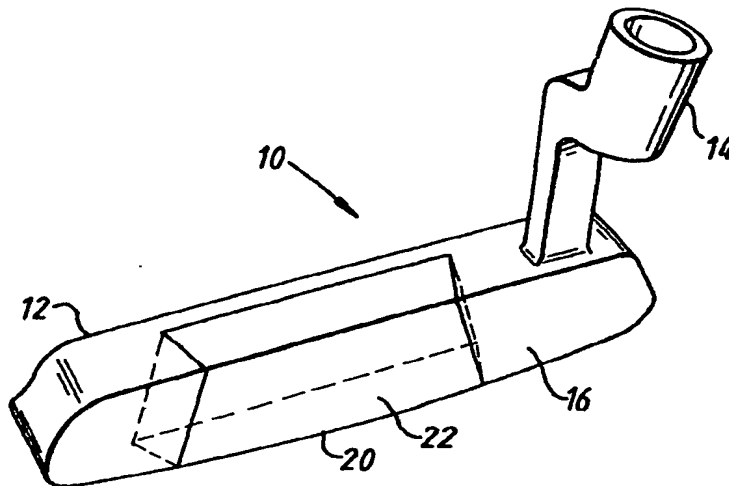


Fig. 1

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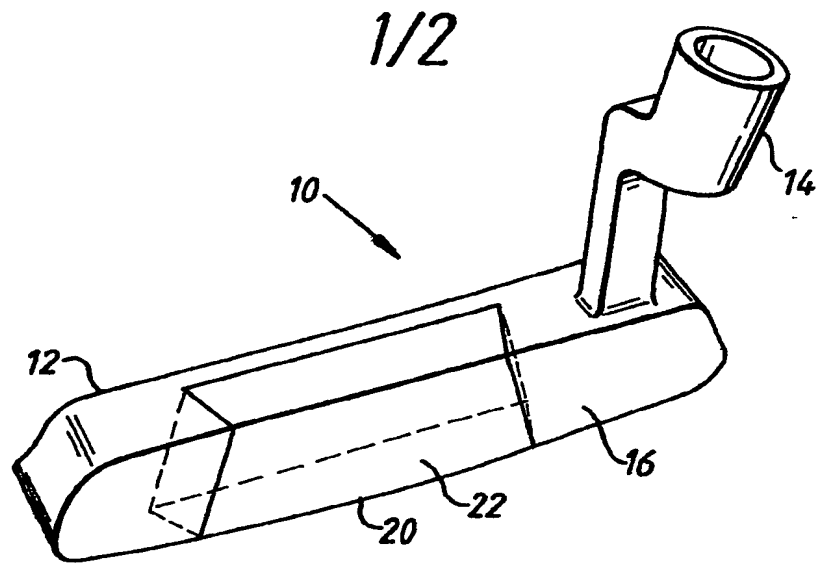


Fig. 1

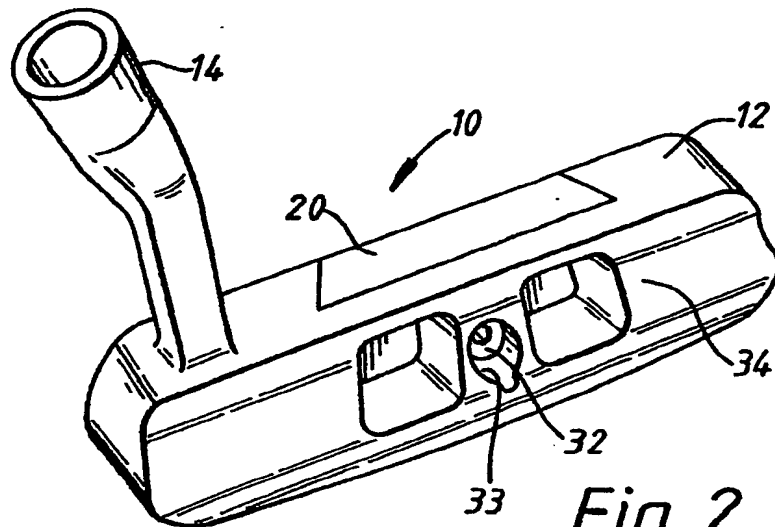


Fig. 2

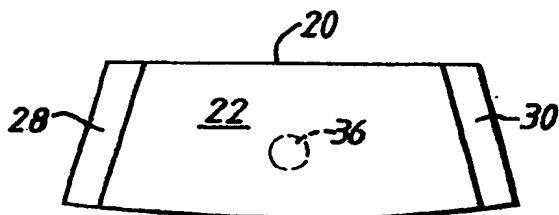


Fig. 3(a)

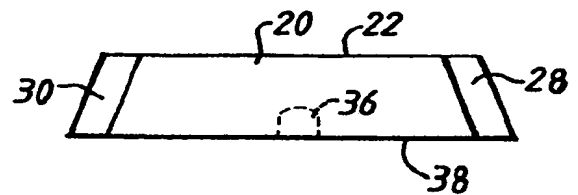


Fig. 3(b)

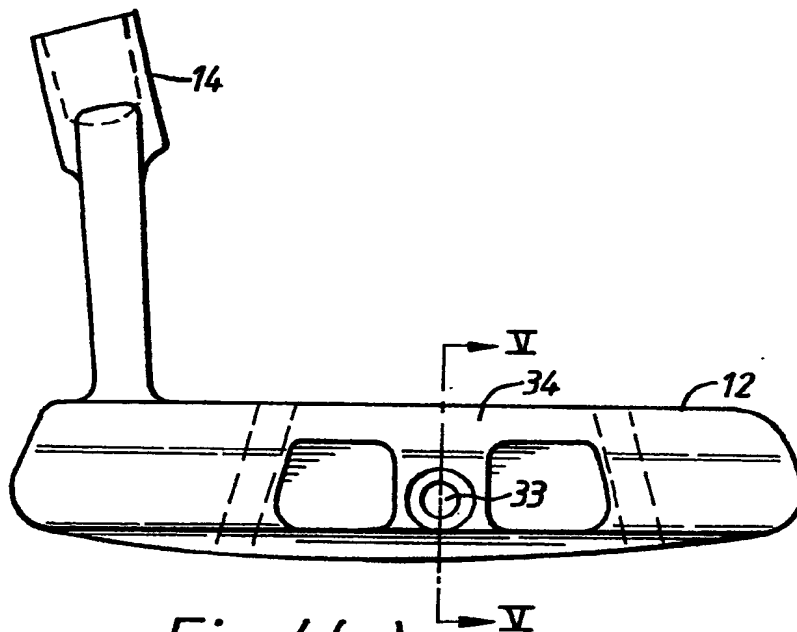


Fig. 4(a)

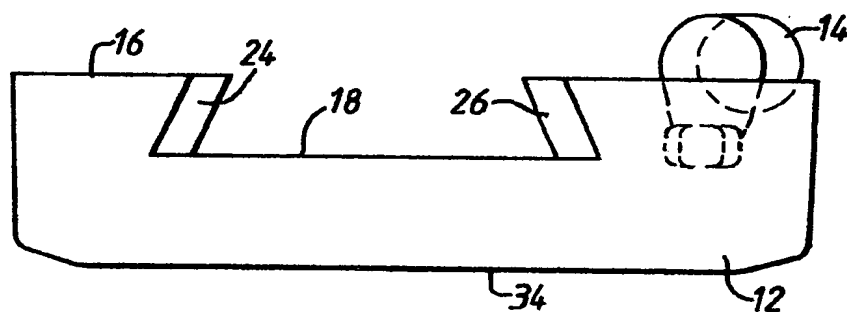


Fig. 4(b)

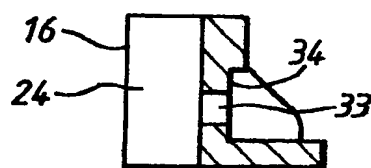


Fig. 5

SPECIFICATION **Golf Club Head**

The present invention relates to a golf club head.

It is known that golf putters of different playing characteristics suit different conditions. For example, a putter having a light head will give better results on a fast green when compared with a putter having a heavy head. Thus if a golfer is to be adequately equipped it is necessary for him to have available a range of putters of different weights so that the putter appropriate to course conditions can be selected. The weight of a putter head is not its only significant playing characteristic however. The material from which the playing surface of the club head is manufactured is also important as different surfaces give a different "feel" when the ball is struck. Thus to be fully equipped a large number of putters are required. The expense involved is such however that most golfers settle for less than a full range of putters.

It is an object of the present invention to provide a golf club head having playing characteristics which can be adjusted.

According to the present invention, there is provided a golf club head comprising a main body portion having a forward surface, said forward surface having a recess formed therein and adapted to receive a removable insert, said insert having a forward surface which, when said insert is located in said recess, defines a ball-contacting surface of the club head.

Preferably said recess and said insert each include first and second co-operating lateral end surfaces adapted to prevent relative movement of the insert and the main body portion.

Preferably also, said first and second lateral end surfaces of said recess and of said insert diverge in a downward direction.

Preferably also, said first and second lateral end surfaces of said recess and of said insert diverge rearwardly from the respective forward surfaces of said main body portion and said insert.

Preferably also, said insert is retained in said recess by screw means extending through an aperture in the rearward surface of said main body portion and engaging a threaded bore in the rearward surface of said insert.

Preferably also, said recess is open at the bottom thereof.

Preferably also, said main body portion may be fitted with any of a variety of inserts having differing properties such that the playing properties of the golf club head may be altered according to the properties of the insert selected.

An embodiment of the present invention will now be described, by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:—

Fig. 1 is a front perspective view of a golf club head embodying the invention;

Fig. 2 is a rear perspective view of the golf club head of Fig. 1;

Figs. 3(a) and 3(b) are, respectively, front and top views of an insert forming part of the golf club head

of Figs. 1 and 2;

Figs. 4(a) and 4(b) are, respectively, rear and bottom views of a body portion forming part of the golf club head of Figs. 1 and 2; and

Fig. 5 is a section on line V—V of Fig. 4(a).

Referring now to the drawings, a club head, generally designated 10, comprises a main body portion 12, having a socket 14 or the like adapted to receive a club shaft (not shown), and a forward surface 16 wherein there is formed a recess 18 adapted to receive an insert 20 of co-operating size and shape. When located in the recess 18, the forward surface 22 of the insert defines the ball-contacting surface of the club head 10.

The recess 18 is open and its top and bottom and includes first and second lateral end surfaces 24, 26 which diverge downwardly from the top of the main body portion 12 and rearwardly from the forward surface 16. The corresponding surfaces 28, 30 of the insert 20 are shaped to co-operate therewith. The insert 20 may thus be inserted into the recess 18 through the bottom thereof and is retained by a screw 32 or the like extending through an aperture 33 in the rearward surface 34 of the main body portion 12 and engaging a blind threaded bore 36 formed in the rearward surface 38 of the insert 20. The dovetail-type configuration of the recess 18 and insert 20 serves to prevent movement of the insert 20 relative to the main body portion 12 and allows it to be secured firmly thereto by means of the single screw 32. Obviously, the precise configuration of the recess 18 and insert may be varied from that of the embodiment illustrated.

The club head 10 can be supplied with a range of inserts 20 of different weights and surface effects so that the characteristics of the club can be easily adapted to suit prevailing conditions.

The insert 20 can be made from any suitable material such as brass, copper, aluminium, steel, fibre glass, graphite or wood.

CLAIMS

1. A golf club head comprising a main body portion having a forward surface, said forward surface having a recess formed therein and adapted to receive a removable insert, said insert having a forward surface which, when said insert is located in said recess, defines a ball-contacting surface of the club head.

2. A golf club head as claimed in claim 1 wherein said recess and said insert each include first and second co-operating lateral end surfaces adapted to prevent relative movement of the insert and the main body portion.

3. A golf club head as claimed in claim 2 wherein said first and second lateral end surfaces of said recess and of said insert diverge in a downward direction.

4. A golf club head as claimed in claim 2 or claim 3 wherein said first and second lateral end surfaces of said recess and of said insert diverge rearwardly from the respective forward surfaces of said main body portion and said insert.

5. A golf club head as claimed in any preceding claim wherein said insert is retained in said recess

by screw means extending through an aperture in the rearward surface of said main body portion and engaging a threaded bore in the rearward surface of said insert.

5 6. A golf club head as claimed in any preceding claim wherein said recess is open at the bottom thereof.

7. A golf club head as claimed in any preceding

10 claim wherein said main body portion may be fitted with any of a variety of inserts having differing properties such that the playing properties of the golf club head may be altered according to the properties of the insert selected.

15 8. A golf club head substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.